

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Status

Claims 1-52 are pending in this application. Claims 27-52 have been withdrawn. Claims 1-3, 6-9, 14-16 and 19-22 have been rejected. Claims 4, 5, 10-13, 17, 18 and 23-26 have been objected to as being allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims. Claims 1 and 14 have been indicated as being allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejection set forth below.

Claims 1, 4, 14 and 17 are herein amended. Claims 27-52 are herein canceled. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1 and 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Claims 2-13 and 15-26 have also been rejected since they depend from claims 1 and 14, respectively.

In this rejection, the Examiner indicated that claims 1 and 14 are indefinite for failing to point out what is meant by “compression ratios of the spacers”.

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 14 to recite that “the compression ratio of each spacer is a height reduction of the spacer by compression divided by an original height of the spacer”.

Support for this amendment is found, for example, in FIGS. 27 and 28B and ¶¶0262, 0267 and 0311 of Applicants' disclosure.

Reconsideration of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 3 and 6-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,331,881 (Hatano).

Although claim 1 is believed to be allowable for at least the reasons stated in the Allowable Subject Matter section of the October 18, 2005 Office Action (since it has been amended to overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejection), claim 1 is also believed to be allowable because Hatano does not disclose that the “compression ratios of the spacers gradually increase as advancing from a center to left and right edges of the display region” as recited therein.

Hatano discloses increasing a diameter of resin pillars from a left side to a right side of a pixel. See e.g., FIGS. 1A and 1B and col. 9, lines 47-51 of Hatano. Hatano does not disclose gradually increasing the compression ratios of the spacers from a center to left and right edges of a display region as shown and described, for example, in FIG. 3 and ¶0088 of Applicants' disclosure.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 14, 16 and 19-21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,507,385 (Nishiyama) in view of Hatano.

Claim 14 has been amended similarly to claim 1 and is believed to be allowable for at least the reasons discussed above for claim 1.

Claims 16 and 19-21 are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons discussed above for claim 14 from which they depend.

Claims 2 and 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hatano in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,275,280 (Kajita).

Claims 2 and 9 are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons discussed above for claim 1 from which they depend.

Claims 15 and 22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishiyama in view of Hatano and further in view of Kajita.

Claims 15 and 22 are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons discussed above for claim 14 from which they depend.

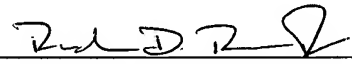
Dependent Claims

Applicants have not independently addressed the rejections of all the dependent claims because Applicants submit that, in view of the amendments to the claims presented herein and, for at least similar reasons as why the independent claims from which the dependent claims depend are believed allowable as discussed, supra, the dependent claims are also allowable. Applicants however, reserve the right to address any individual rejections of the dependent claims should such be necessary or appropriate.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the claims as herein presented are allowable over the prior art of record, taken alone or in combination, and that the respective rejections be withdrawn. Applicants further submit that the application is hereby placed in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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